

REMARKS

Claims 5–9 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 5–9 are amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the original claims. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C §102/§103

The Office Action rejects claims 5–9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0022981 to Hu et al. ("Hu"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

By this amendment, independent claims 5 and 6 are amended to more clearly recite "a method for producing a polymer composite." Accordingly, the rejection of the claims on an alleged "product-by-process limitation" is moot.

Amended claims 5 and 6 both require process steps of "modifying a carbon nanotube with a basic or acidic functional group" and "dispersing the modified carbon nanotube in a polar solvent having a polarity opposite to a polarity of the functional group to form a carbon nanotube dispersion liquid." As conceded by the Office Action, Hu fails to disclose "that the nanotube dispersion is prepared by functionalizing the nanotube with basic or acidic groups then dispersed in a polar solvent having opposite polarity." *See* Office Action, page 3, lines 12–14. Hu also fails to provide any teaching or suggestion that cures this deficiency.

Hu does not anticipate, and would not have rendered obvious claims 5 and 6. Claims 7–9 depend from claim 6 and, thus, also are not anticipated by and would not have been rendered obvious by Hu. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 5-9 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Jeffrey R. Bousquet
Registration No. 57,771

JAO:JRB/hs

Date: December 21, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE AUTHORIZATION Please grant any extension necessary for entry; Charge any fee due to our Deposit Account No. 15-0461
--